

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, December 6, 1973

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BEACH CONSERVATION NOTES

By Neal Merry

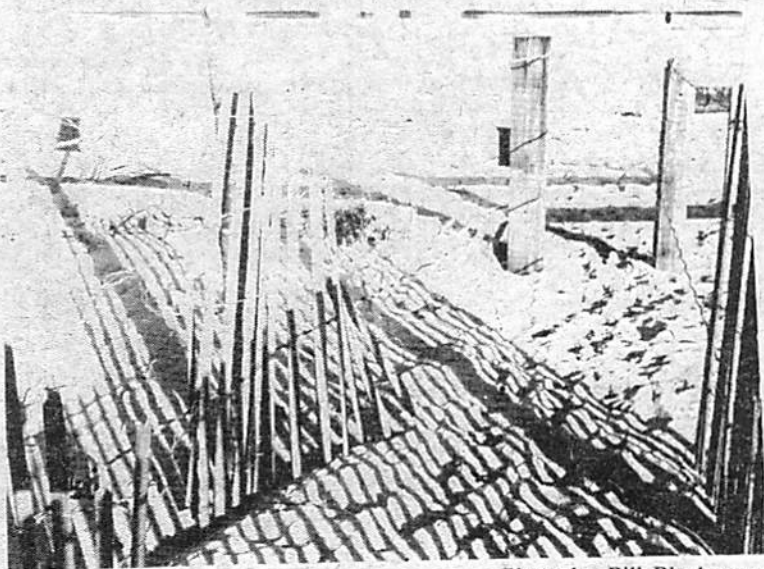


Photo by Bill Blackmore

Pictured above is an example of snow fence vandalism. You are standing in a foot path corridor east of the parking lot looking toward the surf. The fencing was attached to the post just right of center.

Hunting season continues, the Coast Guard station at Gurnet Light had telephone communications for 2½ hours the wires appear to be shot down a second time. Each time this occurs and repairs are needed a Coast Guard phone truck must be dispatched from Chatham.

Have you ever stopped to think about simple "sand" fence mechanics? It is really basic aerodynamics. Think of air as a fluid. The fluid moves faster as the winds velocity increases. The sand particles moved by the air increase in size and numbers as the wind increases. The sand fence serves as brake to slow the wind at the surface. The beach surface wind is really a "sand vehicle." When its

velocity is reduced the sand is deposited at the wind-sand velocity brake or the fence. Christmas trees are often used.

Beach grass really does a better job than our sand fencing does. The grass telescopes upward as the sand accumulates around it. The fencing is necessary, nevertheless, to stabilize areas exposed to the tramping feet of armies and the grinding wheels of sand vehicles.

The beach grass will naturally spread and thrive in the areas undisturbed by our feet and tires.

The next time you are out on the ocean beach, check out the job done by the sand fencing. (Please stay outside the fences). The ocean-most barrier of fence is now almost buried in many areas. That "wind-brake" was erected one year ago last October. Next note (from a distance) the natural and planted beach grass progress in these areas.

A salute to the group which keeps the parking lot litter in the barrels.

Last Friday a numbered lobster pot and gear washed ashore and was returned to its Duxbury owner.

A volunteer group will soon be setting posts and cable in the Plum Hills area to prohibit vehicles from repeating the damage pictured in last week's Clipper.

Next Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 8 and 9, 9 to noon, and 1-4, a small volunteer group from Habitat, an ecologically-oriented school in Belmont, will be making the sand fences more secure for the winter. We are encouraging all hardy beach enthusiasts to come out and join in. All you'll need is a carpenter's hammer. We need to complete this project before winter and spring storms. To aid in planning supplies and refreshments call Neal Merry, Beach Conservation Officer (934-2437) if you know you can volunteer in advance. Why not work on resource conservation this weekend. Turn down the thermostat, shut off the TV, gather the family and bicycle to the beach for a little exercise and satisfaction.

SAVE GAS. SHOP AND PLAY LOCALLY